

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a mammalian cell-line and/or mammalian tissue sample for *in situ* hybridization, comprising the steps of:

- (a) pressure cooking the sample in a decloaking chamber at a temperature of about 125 °C reaching a pressure of between about 20 to about 24 PSI; and
- (b) treating the pressure cooked sample with ammonia-ethanol in a concentration of about 0.25% and sodium borohydride in a concentration of about 5%.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the sample is fixed-treated.

3-5 (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the fixed-treated sample is paraffin embedded.

7-8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the tissue or the cell is human.

10. (Currently Amended) A pressure cooked composition comprising:

- ~~(d)~~ a fixed-treated tissue according to claim 1 ;
- ~~(e)~~ ~~ammonia-ethanol~~; and
- ~~(f)~~ ~~sodium borohydride~~.

11. (Original) The pressure cooked composition according to claim 10, wherein the fixed-treated tissue is paraffin embedded.

12-32. (Canceled).

**32-33.** (Currently Amended) A method for reducing autofluorescence when performing FISH on a fixed treated tissue sample, the method comprising

- (a) pressure cooking the sample in a decloaking chamber at a temperature of about 125 °C reaching a pressure of between about 20 to about 24 PSI; and
- (b) treating the pressure cooked sample with ammonia-ethanol in a concentration of about 0.25% and sodium borohydride in a concentration of about 5%.

wherein both steps are performed on the sample prior to performing FISH.